

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-11 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 /118 W
-----012319 301223Z /50
R 301210Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0203

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E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPRESSES VIEWS ON
STRUCTURE

REF: (A) GENEVA 8131 (B) GENEVA 8045

1. MISSION LABATT AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICIAL
QUACKENBUSH WERE CALLED TO DG BLANCHARD'S OFFICE AFTER-
NOON MAY 26. HE SAID HE WANTED TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE NEGOTIATIONS ON STRUCTURE TAKING PLACE IN THE
GOVERNMENT GROUP. HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO THE IMEC
MEETING (REF A). BLANCHARD SOUGHT TO ALLAY U.S. FEARS
THAT THE AGREEMENT STATED ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ELECTORAL
SYSTEM IN PARA 3 OF THE DRAFT PAPER (REF B) MIGHT
CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT FOR THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE
ILO SYSTEM OF IDEOLOGICAL CRITERIA.

2. BLANCHARD SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE
SOVIET UNION, HE TOLD THE SOVIETS THEY WOULD HAVE TO
SETTLE FOR FOUR REGIONS, BUT THAT THEIR SEAT ON THE
GOVERNING BODY WOULD BE PROTECTED BY ARRANGEMENTS WORKED
OUT IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT
WHILE SOVIET REPS WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THE "SOCIALIST"
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CONCEPT AND LINE IN ILO ACTIVITIES, THEY ACCEPT THE
PHRASE IN THE DRAFT PAPER--"SOCIALIST STATES OF EASTERN
EUROPE" -- AS A PURELY DEFINITIVE REGIONAL CONCEPT FOR
ELECTORAL PURPOSES.

3. BLANCHARD SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT
AGREEMENT, IF FINALLY IMPLEMENTED, WOULD NOT INFRINGE

UPON THE AUTONOMY OF THE EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS. HE SAID THAT HE HAS PUT IT TO THE SOVIETS QUITE BLUNTLY TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF GROUP AUTONOMY. HE BELIEVES THEY HAVE BECOME MORE AGREEABLE TO THIS CONCEPT. BLANCHARD NOTED THAT SOVIET REP BORCHTCHEVSKI HAS BECOME LESS HARD-LINE SINCE THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY - CITING AGAIN THE SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOUR REGIONS AS PROOF.

4. THE DG OPINED THAT OUR VIEWS ABOUT AN UNWIELDY GOVERNING BODY IF ENLARGED ARE TOO EXCESSIVE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PREFER EVEN AN UNWORKABLE GOVERNING BODY TO AN INCREASINGLY POWERFUL CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE A LARGER GOVERNING BODY WOULD BE LESS EFFICIENT.

5. FINALLY, THE DG SAID THAT HIS PRIORITIES ARE IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE: (1) APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS; (2) ARTICLE 17 REFORM; (3) DUE PROCESS AS REPRESENTED BY THE VALTICOS REPORT ON ISRAEL; AND (4) STRUCTURE. ON THE LATTER, HE AGAIN STRESSED THAT SOME ADJUSTMENT HAD TO BE MADE, AND THE CURRENT DRAFT PAPER IS THE "LEAST BAD ARRANGEMENT THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED". HE WONDERED WHY ANYONE (U.S.) WOULD WANT TO INTERFERE WITH NEGOTIATIONS (PER REFTEL). VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (UN)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA08225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1057
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978059/aaaaagwq.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4cccb3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 8131, 78 GENEVA 8045
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO: DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPRESSES VIEWS ON STRUCTURE
TAGS: ELAB, US, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4cccb3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014